

# Law Program

In 2012, the Law Program's efforts were focused on four main topics: public confidence in justice; building the capacity of the judiciary; legislative reform; and fundamental rights.

## 2012 Highlights

- **Public confidence in justice.** The Law Program continued its efforts in studying public confidence in justice by joining a new initiative, FIDUCIA, shedding light on a number of 'new European' criminal acts which have emerged in the last decade. CSD leads the effort on cybercrime and plays an important role in exploring other work topics.
- **Building the capacity of the judiciary.** The Law Program produced a study on *Justice Sector Institutional Indicators for Criminal Case Management* and co-organized a public hearing at the European Parliament on improving criminal justice systems in Europe, using electronic tools. In one of its newer areas of interest – environmental crime and marine pollution – the Law Program took part in the organization of training courses for members of the judiciary.
- **Legislative reform.** This year's legislative efforts of the Law Program covered the areas of registration reform, organized crime, criminal law and e-justice. It prepared and presented an updated strategy for registration reform, organized a public discussion on Bulgarian penal legislation and its weaknesses affecting the fight against organized crime and participated in working groups on the new Bulgarian Criminal Code and on an e-justice legislative amendment package.
- **Fundamental rights.** In the broad framework of initiatives targeting fundamental rights, the Law Program continued monitoring of racism and xenophobia as part of the Rights, Equality and Diversity (RED) Network, and its work on the improvement of the penitentiary system and the situation of children victims of trafficking. It published a report on the right of defense in Bulgarian criminal proceedings and completed the first update of the factsheets on rights of victims of crime in criminal proceedings prepared for and uploaded on the European e-Justice Portal.

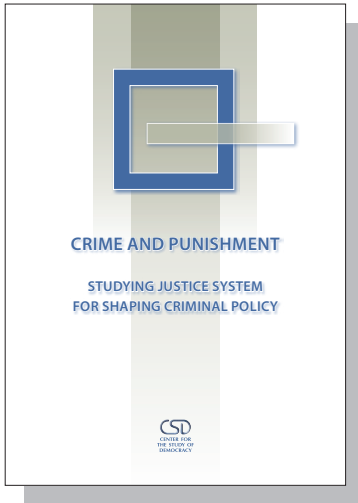
## I. Measuring public confidence in justice

As a follow up to its participation in the three-year international initiative to promote the use of public confidence indicators as a tool for criminal justice policy assessment, Euro-Justis ([www.eurojustis.eu](http://www.eurojustis.eu)), on 23 February 2012 CSD

organized a presentation of its report *Crime and Punishment: Studying Justice System for Shaping Criminal Policy*.

Two of the report's authors, Mr. Alexander Stoyanov, CSD Director of Research and Dr. Todor Galev, Senior Analyst at the Economic Program of the Center, presented the survey results and analyzed

the use of public trust in justice as a tool for evidence based policies in Europe and the conclusions and recommendations for Bulgaria. Mr. Dimitar Markov, Senior Analyst at the Law Program of CSD, outlined the low public and institutional trust as consequence of the unsuccessful judicial reform in Bulgaria.



Since February 2012 the Law Program has been involved, together with 12 partners from 9 EU Member States and Turkey, in a new initiative called FIDUCIA ([www.fiduciaproject.eu](http://www.fiduciaproject.eu)). Building on the results achieved by Euro-Justis, FIDUCIA is aimed at shedding light on a number of distinctively “new European” criminal behaviors that have emerged in the last decade as a consequence of technology developments and the increased mobility of populations across Europe. The central idea behind the FIDUCIA is that public trust in justice is critically important for social regulation, in that it leads to public acceptance of the legitimacy of institutions of justice, and thus to compliance with the law and cooperation with legal authorities. In recognition of important European trends, the special focus of FIDUCIA is on new forms of criminality and supra-national policies of crime control. FIDUCIA proposes a series of four case studies of new forms of criminality that reflect – in various ways – the development of supra-



*Mr. Alexander Stoyanov, Director of Research (left) and Dr. Todor Galev, Senior Analyst, Economic Program, CSD, at the presentation of the report Crime and Punishment: Studying Justice System for Shaping Criminal Policy*

### “What does the FIDUCIA team mean by “trust-based policy”?”

Most people think that police and criminal justice systems control crime through systems of deterrent threat. They suppose that people obey the law because they want to avoid the costs of conviction and punishment in the courts. Well this is true, but it is only part of the story. Most of us obey the law most of the time because we think it is the right thing to do. The police and the courts play an important role in maintaining this “normative commitment to the law”, and they can do it best when they command legitimate authority. People are more likely to obey the law and to cooperate with police and justice officials when they regard them as legitimate. And public trust is crucial to legitimacy. Our research has shown that the surest way of building the legitimacy of the police and courts is for justice officials to treat people fairly and respectfully, and to listen to what they have to say. This creates public trust in justice, which builds system legitimacy, and improves public commitment to the law and cooperation with justice.”

*Prof. Mike Hough, Birkbeck College, London*

national structures and processes across the EU: trafficking of human beings, trafficking of goods, the criminalization of migration and ethnic minorities and cybercrime.

CSD leads the work devoted to cybercrime. As each of the case studies, it aims to examine the causal dynamics of that type of crime, assess current (“best” and “worst”) policy responses across Europe and at EU level, assess whether there are “trust based” alternatives that might prove more effective; and devise ways of implementing these approaches. Within the framework of its cybercrime research, the Law Program, together with other partners, started working on a report and factsheets on the prevalence of cybercrime and related enforcement activity, including available statistics and survey indicators of prevalence, and a report conceptualizing and classifying cybercrime in scientific literature, international and national law.

In another segment of the initiative, as part of a review of existing efforts

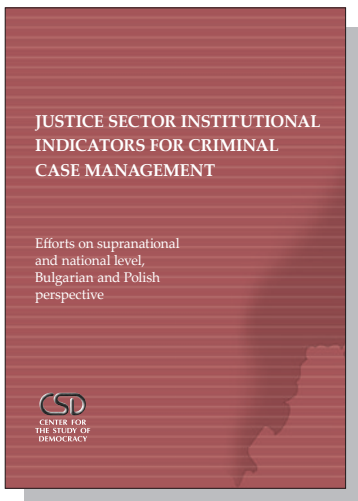
to describe crime trends at European level, the Law Program reviewed the *European Sourcebook of Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics* and the European Social Survey in terms of their methodologies, geographical coverage, the types of crimes covered, the sources’ potential strengths and weaknesses and the relevance of their data.

The CSD team participated in the initiative’s kick-off meeting in London on 2-3 February 2012, where the upcoming work, the management structure and the distribution of tasks were presented and discussed with the participation of Dr. Cristina Marcuzzo from the European Commission’s DG Research. Law Program members also participated in the initiative’s progress meeting and first international conference in Bilbao on 12-13 September 2012. During the progress meeting, Dr. Maria Yordanova, Director of the Law Program, presented the upcoming tasks on cybercrime. The project’s international conference took place as part of the annual conference of the European Society of Criminology,

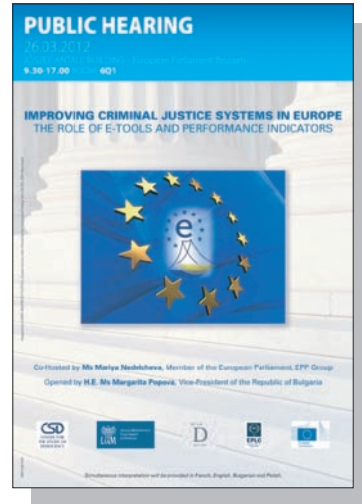
gathering Europe's most prominent criminologists, and CSD team attended several sessions, prepared by FIDUCIA experts.

## II. Building the capacity of the judiciary

In 2012, the Law Program continued its effort on building the case management capacity of judiciary through the introduction of information technologies and performance indicators in cooperation with Adam Mickiewicz University (Poznan, Poland), Droit au Droit Association (Brussels, Belgium), and the European Public Law Organization (an international organization based in Athens, Greece). Under the initiative to foster the transfer of best practices in the application of e-tools for criminal case management, CSD published a report on *Justice Sector Institutional Indicators for Criminal Case Management*, reviewing the existing practices of courts' performance measurement and criminal case management, based on concepts such as efficiency and effectiveness, benchmarking and result orientation. Members of the Law Program team authored the report's chapter on Bulgaria



presenting the Bulgarian perspective on the indicators for criminal case management, including normative, policy and strategic framework, existing efforts and institutional and technological setup for a future system of indicators.



On 26 March 2012, CSD in partnership with Ms. Mariya Nedelcheva, Member of the European Parliament, and its other partners organized a Public Hearing *Improving Criminal Justice Systems in Europe: The Role of E-Tools and Performance Indicators*, which was held at the European Parliament in Brussels. It generated an in-depth discussion on existing practices, challenges and perspectives regarding the e-modernization and quality evaluation processes of criminal justice systems in the EU Member States.

The audience was welcomed by Ms. Margarita Popova, Vice-President and former Minister of Justice of Bulgaria, and Mr. Jaroslaw Paszke, Director, Department of Computerization and Court Registers, Ministry of Justice of Poland. Special intervention was heard by Ms. Monica Luisa Macovei, MEP, EPP Group, Romania. Among other speakers were Mr. Dick Heimans, Deputy



*From left to right: Mr. Jaroslaw Paszke, Director, Department of Computerization and Court Registers, Ministry of Justice of Poland, Ms. Mariya Nedelcheva, Member of the European Parliament, Ms. Margarita Popova, Vice-President and former Minister of Justice of Bulgaria and Dr. Maria Yordanova, Director of the Law Program, CSD, at the public hearing Improving Criminal Justice Systems in Europe: The Role of E-Tools and Performance Indicators*

- EU Member States' judicial systems face number of problems which require the implementation of systematic performance measurement.
- Besides the legal accountability mechanisms courts tend to be a subject of managerial accountability.
- There is no single model for managerial accountability of the judiciary and many countries are still very much within an experimental phase in this field.
- Most of the tools in the EU Member States measure the performance of the judiciary at the three different levels:
  - at “micro-level”, to measure the productivity of judges or employees;
  - at “meso-level”, to measure the performance of each court; and
  - at “macro-level”, to measure costs and means of the judicial institution as a whole against its global output or outcome.
- Evaluation criteria: Quality or performance?
- Social indicators should also be developed to evaluate the level of public trust and institutional legitimacy in the judiciary demonstrated or generated by the way courts operate.
- The use of ICT is a significant tool to manage and improve courts' time-lines.

*Source: White Paper: Justice Sector Institutional Indicators for Criminal Case Management.*

Head of Unit, Unit B2: Criminal Law, DG Justice, European Commission, Mr. Francesco Contini from the Research Institute on Judicial Systems, Italy, Mr. Marco Velicogna, Scientific Expert with the European Commission on the Efficiency of Justice of the Council of Europe (CEPEJ), other law practitioners, experts in criminal justice, NGOs and international organizations' representatives, as well as Members of the European Parliament and representatives of the European Commission and other European institutions.

A summary of the results achieved by the e-tools initiative was prepared and disseminated among EU and national institutions, NGOs, academics, legal practitioners and other experts. It received positive feedback from various EU sources.

In line with CSD's long-standing expertise in the area of e-justice, Law Program Director Dr. Maria Yordanova was invit-

ed to be a discussant at a research conference in Bologna, Italy, on 14-17 June 2012, entitled *Building Interoperability for European Civil Proceedings Online*. The conference was organized by the Research Institute on Judicial Systems of the National Research Council of Italy (IRSIG-CNR), in partnership with the Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain, the Central European University, Hungary, the University of Bologna, Italy, the University of Coimbra, Portugal, and the Italian Ministry of Justice. The conference aimed at gathering new data about the use of ICT in judicial proceedings, investigating in particular the practices adopted by courts to handle the European Payment Order (EPO) and the European small claims proceedings (ESCP).

One of the Law Program's newer areas of interest has also been directed towards building the capacity of the judiciary. In early 2012 CSD started working on promoting a fair criminal justice system ca-



*Dr. Ercole Aprile, Counselor at the Supreme Court of Cassation of Italy during his lecture at the Sofia training module on environmental crime*



*Prof. Ciro Grandi, Professor of Criminal Law in the University of Ferrara during his lecture at the Sofia training module on environmental crime*

pable of effectively dealing with serious trans-border crimes related to the environment through specialized training of selected criminal justice personnel. The Center's team took part in two steering committee meetings in Lecce, Italy and Sofia, where important issues related to the upcoming training courses were discussed. Law Program members were instrumental in drafting the curriculum of the specialized training by providing an overview of Bulgarian criminal law and procedure, related to environmental crime, and relevant case-law and practices. In partnership with leading Bulgarian professional organizations in the judiciary, CSD selected three Bulgarian prosecutors to be trained on environmental crime. They were sent to three training modules in Lecce and Otranto, Italy, where they participated in lectures and workshops, led by prominent lawyers and environmentalists, together

with colleagues from other European countries.

One of the initiative's training modules took place in Sofia on 18 September 2012. The seminar, organized by the Law Program, brought together representatives of the judiciary, academics, attorneys, experts and representatives of the civil society from Italy and Bulgaria. Participants heard lectures by Dr. Ercole Aprile, Counselor at the Supreme Court of Cassation of Italy, on the current issues of the EU competence in the area of criminal law and by Prof. Ciro Grandi, Professor of Criminal Law in the University of Ferrara, on the international and European legal framework on environmental and maritime crime.

In the afternoon session Mr. Svilen Ovcharov, attorney-at-law and member of

the Green Lawyers voluntary group, described the legislation and jurisprudence on environmental crime and maritime pollution in Bulgaria. Mr. Viktor Tarchev, prosecutor from Sofia Regional Prosecutor's Office, presented the project of the Association of Prosecutors in Bulgaria on the increase of the control and the respect of the rules set out in the legislation protecting the environment and the risk management.

### III. Legislative reform

#### 1. Registration reform, e-justice

Having taken significant part in the process of registration reform in Bulgaria and in the creation of the Central Pledges Register and the Commercial Register in particular, in 2012 the Law Program joined efforts with the Economic Program of the Center to prepare an Updated Strategy for the Establishment of a Central Electronic Register of Legal Persons and an Electronic Registries Center of the Republic of Bulgaria. The new strategy stepped upon the *Strategy for the Establishment of a Central Electronic Register of Legal Persons and an Electronic Registries Center* of the Republic of Bulgaria, adopted by a Decision of the Council of Ministers of 28 April 2005, which was also drafted thanks to CSD's research and advocacy efforts. The updated document aimed at analyzing and evaluating the results of the implementation of the previous one, revising the measures, deadlines and responsibilities of the institutions with regard to the activities not yet performed and updating the strategy in order for it to correspond to the current legal and institutional framework of the official registers in Bulgaria. Partial implementation of the original strategy was established and the current situation of registers in the country was reviewed.

It was proposed the continued efforts in the area to be divided into:

- an analytical stage, covering an examination of the current situation with the registries of legal persons in Bulgaria, identification of the types and number of existing legal persons and a financial analysis on the costs and expenses involved; and
- a legal and technical stage, involving preparation and adoption of a Law on the Central Register of Legal Persons; amendments to the legislation related to legal persons in Bulgaria and governing the activities of the Registry Agency; secondary legislation related to the functioning of the Central Register of Legal Persons; establishment of the Central Register of Legal Persons; re-registration of legal persons in the Central Register of Legal Persons and merger of the Commercial Register with the Central Register of Legal Persons.

The updated strategy was presented on 18 October 2012 at a round table, entitled *Registration Strategy Reform: 10 Years Later*. Participants in the event included representatives of the Ministry of Justice and other government agencies, prominent legal professionals, experts in the area of information technology, representatives of non-governmental organizations and the media. Ms. Denitsa Valkova-Petkova, Deputy Minister of Justice of the Republic of Bulgaria, spoke about the recent measures, undertaken at the beginning of the year, to improve the performance of the Commercial Registry, highlighting at the same time several problem areas, mainly with regard to the lack of progress in establishing a single electronic Registry of Legal Persons and Central Property Registry. Ms. Valkova-Petkova also presented the main pillars of the concept for e-justice, developed by a working group





*From left to right: Ms. Karen Hough, secretary, University of Salento, Mr. Victor Tartchev, prosecutor, Sofia Regional Prosecutor's Office, Ms. Daniela Aleksandrova, prosecutor, Sofia Regional Prosecutor's Office, Ms. Gergana Mutafova, head of Plovdiv Regional Prosecutor's Office at the Sofia training module on environmental crime*

at the Ministry of Justice. Mr. Dimitar Markov, Senior Analyst at CSD Law Program, presented the milestones of the Center's proposed updated strategy. Mr. Todor Yalamov, Senior Analyst at CSD Economic Program, addressed the problems associated with the registration of non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Within the framework of the Economic Program's initiative Good Governance Vs Civil Society Capture in Bulgaria, Ms. Maria Doychinova, Program Assistant at CSD Law Program, wrote a study on informal civil initiatives.

Based on its e-justice experience, CSD was invited to take part in the work-

ing group with the Ministry of Justice, pre-paring a legislative amendment package, aimed at the introduction of electronic tools in Bulgarian civil and administrative procedure. The Law Program team contributed to the effort by evaluating the concept and lobbying for greater emphasis on registration reform. CSD also presented draft e-justice supplements to the Criminal Procedure Code, which was not part of the initial group of laws, presented for amendment by the Ministry. The Center's proposals were considered timely and much needed both by academics and practitioners, they were further developed by Ministry of Justice experts and were planned to become part of the subsequent legislative procedure.



*From left to right: Ms. Natasha Boseva, Director of the Central Pledges Registry (CPR) with the Ministry of Justice, Mr. Julian Mitev, Executive Director of the Registry Agency and Ms. Denitsa Valkova-Petkova, Deputy Minister of Justice of the Republic of Bulgaria at the round table Registration Strategy Reform: 10 Years Later*

## 2. Criminal law reform

The legal side of the prevention of and fight against crime has been a recurring topic in the work of the Law Program.

In the area of organized crime, as part of the Bulgarian Organized Crime Threat

Assessment (BOCTA) the Law Program published an analysis of Bulgarian penal legislation, in particular the *Criminal Code* and the *Criminal Procedure Code*, identifying the weaknesses that affect the fight against organized crime and recommending solutions for their overcoming. The research methodology of

“The low productivity of the use of special intelligence means, as well as the numerous abuses and violations, are due to problems of various nature: flaws in the legal framework and its synchronization, exceedingly broad range of offences to which special intelligence means are applicable, the behavior and the insufficient professional qualification of some of the participants in the special intelligence means deployment procedure, lack of reliable safeguards against abuses and violations of fundamental human rights and of a comprehensive and effective system of independent control over the use of special intelligence means.”

*Source: Countering Organised Crime in Bulgaria: Study on the Legal Framework.*

*Countering Organised Crime in Bulgaria: Study on the Legal Framework* combined legal analysis of the existing legislative framework, literature review and interviews with representatives of all relevant institutions involved in the fight against organized crime.



The report identified a number of shortcomings in the current legislation, including deviations from the internationally recognized standards and contradictory, unclear and inadequate provisions, which prevent the effective investigation and prosecution of cases of organized crime. The study recommended a number of concrete measures for legislative reforms aimed at improving the legal framework and creating a favorable legal environment for preventing and fighting organized crime.

On 30 March 2012 the Law Program organized a public discussion *Countering Organised Crime in Bulgaria: a Study on the Legal Framework* to present its study. Representatives of the judiciary, the Ministry of Justice, experts, academics and attorneys took part in the discussion. Mr. Dimitar Markov, Senior Analyst at CSD Law Program, reviewed the substantive legal framework of crim-

inalizing the acts of organized criminal groups in Bulgarian Criminal Code. He outlined the problems, posed by the legal definition of such groups, as well as the consequences they may have, as regards its scope and the jurisdiction of relevant cases. Dr. Maria Yordanova, Director of the Law Program, analyzed the procedural framework for gathering evidence, concerning such groups, including the issues of protecting witnesses, interviewing anonymous witnesses, as well as the evidentiary value of data acquired through special intelligence means. A number of recommendations concerning these operative means and the supervision over their use were given. Special emphasis was put on the challenges before the newly created specialized criminal courts and prosecutor's offices.

The Law Program was also invited to participate in another major working group with the Ministry of Justice, discussing the new draft Criminal Code and scheduled to continue in 2013. Mr. Dimitar Markov, Senior Analyst at CSD Law Program, has taken a regular part in the efforts of the working group by presenting CSD's various legislative proposals, developed throughout the years of the Center's work on criminal law reform. He has also discussed relevant domestic and international experience, to the extent information is available, and examples from foreign legislation, which the Law Program has gathered as part of its research initiatives.

#### IV. Fundamental rights

##### 1. Monitoring of racism and xenophobia

In 2012, CSD continued to be a part of the anti-discrimination Rights, Equality and Diversity (RED) Network, an independent research network composed of



*Dr. Maria Yordanova, Director of the CSD Law Program and Mr. Dimitar Markov, Senior Analyst at the Law Program at the public discussion Countering Organized Crime in Bulgaria: a Study on the Legal Framework*

17 research institutes and civil society organizations in EU Member States. The Network aims at critically recording and fighting stereotypes which are the causes of racist and discriminatory attitudes, speech, actions and violent incidents.

The RED Network developed and launched the RED Portal with its two components RED Atlas of Racism and Discrimination (a set of indicators providing a profound view of the racism, discrimination, integration and diversity policies, cases, statistics, etc. in the EU) and an Early-Warning System (map-based and providing straight forward information to expert and other users). The Law Program is responsible for monitoring the situation in Bulgaria and inputting relevant data into the early warning system and the atlas.

The RED Portal was officially launched on 19 March 2012 in Brussels. Both the

EU Parliament and the Fundamental Rights Agency expressed their highest interest in the RED Early Warning System and Atlas.

On 22 March 2012 the public launch of the RED Portal for Bulgaria was announced. Representatives of state institutions, involved in countering racism and discrimination in Bulgaria, as well as researchers and experts from non-governmental organizations took part in the event. Mr. Dimitar Markov, Senior Analyst at CSD Law Program, made the opening remarks, noting that the Portal was the first initiative of its kind, giving real time updates and aiming to document cases and trends, related to racism, xenophobia and discrimination and the measures directed against them in the involved countries. Ms. Maria Doichinova, Program Assistant at the Law Program, did a short presentation of the RED Portal as a user friendly tool,

contributing to the development of research and policies against racism and xenophobia through timely and effective reporting on national and European level. Besides its two main parts, the Portal also has additional components, such as library, a thesaurus of racist stereotypes by country, news and events. In the ensuing discussion it was noted that the Portal is a long-term initiative, relying on all stakeholders for supplying timely and relevant information in accordance with detailed criteria and the opinion of a Steering Group. Generally accessible data, publicized by state institutions, is used, as well as the reports of prominent organizations on national and local level.

In 2012, the portal was fed with the latest developments in the anti-racism and antidiscrimination policy measures, major incidents and latest reports.

## 2. Reform of the penitentiary system

Based on its extensive expertise in the field of penitentiary system reform,

in 2012 the Law Program continued working on an international initiative aimed to reduce the phenomenon of radicalization in prisons by improving the dialogue with and between inmates with different religious background. Members of the Law Program team collected materials on the internal regulation of prisons in Bulgaria and on the information manuals for foreigners and contacted representatives of prison administrations to discuss those issues. On 27-29 February 2012 CSD representatives took part in a working meeting in Ankara, Turkey, and a public conference entitled *Addressing the Issue of Disadvantageous Groups in Prison System by Civil Society Organizations and Minority Representatives*. Another working meeting under the initiative took place in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina on 17-20 April 2012. The Law Program implemented the filling in of a field questionnaire *Checklist for the Custodial Conditions Based on European Standards* by interviews with prison administrations and the Execution of Penalties Chief Directorate, as well as desk research. Program rep-



*Ms. Maria Doychinova, Program Assistant at the CSD Law Program during her presentation at the public launch of the RED Portal for Bulgaria*

representatives also took part in a training of trainers session *Experts in Advocacy & Monitoring for the Rights of Prisoners* in Rome on 26-28 November 2012.

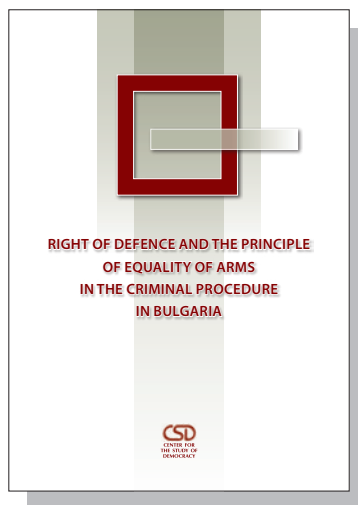
On 11-13 November 2012 in Sofia Ms. Maria Doychinova, Program Assistant at the Law Program took part in a training seminar on *International and National Standards on the Rights of Detainees and Monitoring of Closed Institutions*. Participants heard lectures by representatives of leading human rights and monitoring NGOs and visited several penitentiary establishments in and around Sofia.

### 3. Fundamental rights in criminal justice context

In a cross-section of two of its main priorities, criminal law and fundamental rights, the Law Program continued its research activity on fundamental rights in a criminal justice context, exploring the rights of two main actors in the criminal procedure: the victim and the defendant.

In 2012, the Program completed the first update of the factsheets on rights of victims of crime in criminal proceedings it had previously prepared for the European e-Justice Portal ([https://e-justice.europa.eu/content\\_rights\\_of\\_victims\\_of\\_crime\\_in\\_criminal\\_proceedings-171-en.do](https://e-justice.europa.eu/content_rights_of_victims_of_crime_in_criminal_proceedings-171-en.do)). The team of experts from each EU Member State, which worked on the initial factsheets, was contacted again to review their content and reflect the legislative amendments that had occurred in the period since the first drafting round. Changes concerning electronic tools for submitting crime complaints, better protection of victims of domestic violence and human trafficking and an enhanced system of legal aid, were duly noted and the collection of Internet resources, available as part of

the factsheets, was thoroughly updated. As in the preceding stages, updates were validated in writing by responsible national authorities and will be uploaded on the European e-Justice Portal.



In the area of defendants' rights, the Law Program published a report on the right of defense in criminal proceedings in Bulgaria. It gives an overview of the Bulgarian judicial system and criminal procedure and explains in detail the roles and responsibilities of the public prosecutor, the defendant and the counsel for the defense in the course of the pre-trial proceedings and during the trial. It analyzes the regulation of the right of defense in Bulgaria and explores the principle of equality of arms in Bulgarian criminal procedure. The study discusses defense counsels' procedural role and outlines a number of problems that attorneys face in defending their clients during the criminal proceedings. Copies of the publication were provided to the National Institute of Justice, the National Legal Aid Bureau and the Supreme Bar Council to be used in their everyday activities and were further disseminated among legal practitioners, academics and NGOs.

#### **4. Protection and reintegration of children victims of trafficking**

In the area of child trafficking, within a joint effort with the Sociological Program, the Law Program published a study on the legal and institutional framework for assisting and reintegrating child victims of trafficking in Bulgaria. It provides an overview of the relevant laws and regulations, the applicable procedures for the provision of assistance to child victims of trafficking, policy strategies and programs against human trafficking, and governmental institutions and non-governmental organizations active in this field. The report also outlines some of the major activities, undertaken in the area in the last few years, and analyzes the compliance of Bulgaria's protection framework with the findings and recommendations in the recent report by the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings GRETA. The main findings and conclusions of the study also served as the basis for developing a comparative study on the legal and institutional framework against child trafficking in several EU Member States.

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In 2012, Dr. Maria Yordanova, Director of the Law Program of CSD, became na-

tional correspondent for the European Sourcebook of Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics. The European Sourcebook is an instrument for collecting official statistics and data from sociological surveys carried out in the area of crime and criminal justice. It is divided into five chapters, covering police data, prosecution statistics, conviction statistics, correctional statistics and survey data. The task of every national correspondent is to fill in a country survey on crime and criminal justice data in close cooperation with the Sourcebook experts group.

As Member of the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) Board of Advisors, Dr. Maria Yordanova contributed to the process of developing a new strategic plan of the organization for the period 2013 – 2016. She attended the Annual meeting of the Board of Advisors and the consultative meeting held on 27 July 2012 at the organization's headquarters in Rome.

Mr. Dimitar Markov, Senior Analyst and Project Director at CSD Law Program, and Ms. Miriana Ilcheva, Research Fellow, developed the legal aspects of the Country Profile Fiche for Bulgaria within the framework of the Local Research Correspondents on Corruption (LRCC) Network.